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10/12/1984 - Errett Warner

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

October 12, 1984

Select

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--At 86, Errett Warner's handshake is as firm as his faith in higher education and the young men and women who fill those classroom seats.

He expresses that faith in practical terms--his gifts to colleges and universities total \$110,000. His alma mater, Eastern Illinois University, has received \$77,500 of the amount. During a visit to the campus a few days ago, Warner explained his reason simply: "I can't think of a better way to spend my money."

In expressing appreciation for another check from Warner in support of the Errett and Mazie Warner Awards, Eastern's president, Dr. Stanley Rives, told Warner "this latest contribution marks a real milestone in your continued support of students and higher education. I only hope you know how much this means to current and future generations of students."

A native of Lawrence County, Ill., this alert man with close cropped white hair lives North of Lawrenceville and only this year retired from his position with the Department of Minerals and Mines of Illinois. In that capacity, he was an oil well inspector and pollution control officer, a job that kept him outdoors and driving through 21 counties in southern Illinois.

But before Errett Warner joined the hard hat ranks, he devoted nearly 42 years to public education. Those years started immediately after he graduated from Eastern in 1925. He is impressed with what he learned at the University and he sums up his commitment this way:

"My contribution to Eastern is limited, compared to the benefits I have received."

Warner

Add 1

Students, administrators, and faculty who have come to know this man would argue that his contribution is unlimited. Since 1976, his gifts have funded 83 scholarships at Eastern. Those scholarships have lightened the financial load of those deserving young men and women. And the only thing Errett Warner asks in return is "do a good job at whatever you do."

Warner is a recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award at Eastern and is a former grand marshal for the Homecoming parade. He is a member of the President's Club at the University of Georgia.

Warner was a hard-nosed football player (captain, 1924) and his coach, Dr. Charles P. Lantz, is high on the list of persons he respects. Also high on that blue chip list is Livingston C. Lord, Eastern's first president.

Warner coached and taught at Lawrenceville High School for two years after his graduation. He later coached at Charleston High School and was an administrator at various other Illinois schools. From 1955 to 1963 he was Superintendent of Schools in Lawrence County.

In addition to the bachelor's degree he earned at Eastern, Warner holds an M.S. in Biological Science from the University of Chicago and an M.A. in Administration from the University of Illinois.

Gov. James Thompson sent a certificate of appreciation to Warner on his retirement, citing his "outstanding" work in the field of anti-pollution. Also, his colleagues presented him a gold watch.

Warner's support of Eastern is based on the high quality of education he received, his respect for outstanding teachers, his conviction that EIU is doing a fine job in training young minds--and for one highly personal reason.

Warner

Add 2

It was in a class at Eastern that he met the lady who was to become his wife, the late Mazie Tearney Warner. He honors her memory by making her name part of the scholarships he has established.

Other universities that have benefited from Warner's generosity are the University of Georgia, Eureka (Ill.) College, and Maryville College in Tennessee.

This plain spoken man who believes in America's youth puts his philosophy this way:

"The world has been good to me and I want people, in turn, to remember me for service."

That part of the world that knows Errett Warner will remember him exactly that way.

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Caption

CHARLESTON, IL--These students are representative of the many that have been helped at Eastern Illinois University by Errett Warner, left, an alumnus. With Warner is President Stanley Rives. Students, from left: Emily Bunnell, Flora; Kevin Smith, Peoria; and Matthew Fitton, Rantoul. Warner has given \$77,500 to Eastern in support of scholarships.